

more to give at age 32 when Cashman rescued him out of the Cleveland Indians' minor league system with a late-April trade to shore up his injured outfield. "He brings an energy; there's a buy-in to what we're doing," Boone says of Maybin. "He's a presence in our room, and we're lucky to have him."

Even the lefty Cortes Jr., who toiled for six years on the Yankees' farm before being taken (and subsequently returned) by the Orioles in the 2017 Rule 5 draft, had people in the organization who believed in his talent.

Urshela? Wasn't he just a glove?

"He was always on our radar because of his defense," Boone says of the under-the-radar transaction in August of 2018, when the Yankees obtained Urshela for cash from the Blue Jays and sent him to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Despite not having any remarkable offensive stats, "Our guys in the office did a good job of identifying the quality contact he was making in the minor leagues and that had the potential to translate at the big-league level," Boone says.

Urshela didn't even get the first call when Andújar went down with what became a season-ending labrum tear. In spring training, Urshela opened a lot of eyes with his newfound hitting approach, barreling pitches at a far more consistent rate; he'd been a .225 hitter with just eight homers and 39 RBI and a .589 OPS in 167 major league games. Still, it was Tyler Wade who was recalled when Andújar landed on the 10-day injured list with a right shoulder strain on April 1. Five days later, the Yankees selected Urshela from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and signed him to a major league contract. And over his first 105 games with the big club, all Urshela did was hit .336 with 18 homers, 66 RBI and a .951 OPS while playing Gold Glove-caliber defense.

"The power continues to play," Boone says. "I think everyone keeps waiting for him to fall off. But the better the competition, the bigger the spot, he seems to be a little better, too."

As a teammate of Urshela's in the Venezuelan Winter League three years ago, "I



Maybin [top] began the season stuck in Triple-A with the Indians before the Yankees, badly in need of outfield help, acquired him. Cortes Jr. [above, second from L], meanwhile, was returned from Baltimore as a Rule 5 pick before carving out a role in the Yankees bullpen.